

Belize's VMS Progress Report pursuant to IATTC Res. C-23-11

18th March 2025

Belize implemented its Vessel Monitoring System in 2003, partnering with Polestar Space Applications Ltd, as service provider. Since then, Polestar has been dedicated to enhancing our system by addressing our unique monitoring requirements. Through a successful merger with Absolute Software Inc., Polestar has created an innovative platform that enables our system to:

1. Accurately capture vital information such as vessel identification, geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) with a precision of less than 100 meters at a confidence level of 99%.
2. Additionally, the system records the date and time (UTC) of the vessel's position, its speed and course, as well as providing a photograph and detailed profile of the vessel, among other noteworthy features.
3. The system also allows us to define specific geographical zones, grouping vessels accordingly. It also incorporates points of interest, bathymetry, and weather mapping overlays. Furthermore, it includes an accumulative distance measurer, hourly vessel position reporting, and the ability to adjust the frequency of position reporting for vessels requiring additional monitoring or operational verification.
4. VMS equipment installed on our vessels are tamper evident and protected against input or output of false positions and the system cannot be over-ridden.

All Belize registered fishing vessels, and those involved in fishing-related activities regardless of dimensions are mandated to obtain and install the unit provided by Polestar Space Applications Ltd.

Since its establishment in January 2014, our Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) has been committed to 24-hour monitoring of our vessels. All data retrieved from the unit adheres to the standards and regulations stipulated by the IATTC.

Pursuant to our Monitoring, Control and Surveillance regulation, if a unit malfunctions or experiences technical issues while the vessel is at sea, the operator is required to provide hourly manual position reports to our Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) while addressing the problem. If a unit remains faulty for a period of up to 48 hours, the vessel will receive instructions to terminate all fishing operations, secure its fishing gear, and return to port until the issue is resolved. This precaution ensures that any technical difficulties are promptly resolved, maintaining the integrity of our monitoring system. No vessel is allowed to leave a port or engage in fishing activities without an operational vessel monitoring equipment.

Belize's vessel monitoring efforts are further enhanced by utilizing additional platforms such as Global Fishing Watch, online monitoring platforms such as MarineTraffic and VesselFinder. These supplementary tools provide valuable support to our monitoring activities, enabling us to gather comprehensive data and insights into fishing activities. By leveraging multiple platforms, we strengthen our ability to effectively monitor and manage our marine resources, ensuring sustainable fishing practices in Belize.

Belize is also implementing Electronic Monitoring to compliment VMS and to aide in gathering scientific and catch data in place of human observers. The EMS project will be divided into three phases. The first phase will commence in early 2025 and will be fully implemented by 2026.



Belize's VMS Progress Report pursuant to IATTC Res. C-23-11

13th May 2024

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C-14-02	Establishment of a vessel monitoring system (VMS)	Not defined	Belize has established its VMS in line with recommended CMM. This had been reported to the Secretariat in the past.
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Belize's Progress Report on VMS In accordance with Res. C-14-02

4th February 2020

Belize implemented its Vessel Monitoring System since 2003 through a service provider, Polestar Space Applications Ltd. Since then, Polestar has continuously strived to improve our system by meeting our specific monitoring needs. Polestar through its successful merger with Absolute Software Inc., has created a unique platform which allows our system to capture information such as the vessel identification information, the vessel's geographical position (latitude and longitude) with errors of less than 100 meters at a confidence level of 99%, the date and time (UTC) of the vessel's position, the vessel's speed and course, photograph of the vessel and many other noteworthy features. Our system is able to define specific geographical zones where vessels can be grouped to certain zones etc., points of interest, bathymetry, and weather mapping overlays, accumulative distance measurer and hourly vessel position reporting, inter alia.

Our Fisheries Monitoring Centre which was created in January 2014 is dedicated to the 24-hour monitoring of our vessels. All fishing vessels or vessels engaged in fishing related activities must obtain and install the unit provided by Polestar Inc. Therefore, all vessels regardless of length size must meet this requirement. When a unit is purchased from our service provider, it is shipped directly to the vessel and installed. After testing is conducted to ensure that the unit is successfully reporting on our system, the Administration will authorize the vessel to proceed with its fishing operations under Belize. All data that is retrieved from the unit meets the standards and requirement set forth by IATTC. With regard to Resolution C-03-04, all Belize fishing vessels under IATTC are long liners and as such does not need to meet the requirements stipulated within this resolution. Regarding Resolution C-03-05, relevant data have been retrieved from the fishing logbook which the master utilizes daily.



High Seas Fisheries Unit

BELIZE

Progress Report on VMS in accordance with
Resolution C-14-02

18th March 2019

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B E L I Z E

Progress Report on VMS in accordance with
Resolution C-14-02

4 May 2018

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BELIZE

**Progress Report on VMS in accordance with
Resolution C-14-02**

12 June 2017 (amended)

Belize implemented its Vessel Monitoring System since 2003 through a service provider, Polestar Space Applications Ltd. Since then, Polestar has continuously strived to improve our system by meeting our specific monitoring needs. Currently, Polestar through its successful merger with Absolute systems, has created a unique platform which allows our system to capture information such as the vessel identification information, the vessel's geographical position (latitude and longitude) with errors of less than 100 meters at a confidence level of 99%, the date and time (UTC) of the vessel's position, the vessel's speed and course, photograph of the vessel and many other noteworthy features. Our system is now able to define specific geographical zones where vessels can be grouped to certain zones etc., points of interest, bathymetry, and weather mapping overlays, accumulative distance measurer and hourly vessel position reporting, inter alia.

Our vessel monitoring system is also equipped with an e-log feature that will enable all vessel operators to provide daily real time catch data via their IDP 690 Transceiver Unit, Treq VM Data Terminal and Beijer X T7AM Marine Terminal to the system. This data will be stored within the system's database which will be closely monitored and analysed. As an update, we are still conducting tests on the E-log feature to ensure that correct data is being entered and transmitted by the operators; and that the system may be able to retrieve and provide the data in specific reporting formats. We are also working with Polestar's support team in assisting the operators on the usage of the program since it is relatively new to them. We have encountered some issues along the way with regard to the data entered by the operators and their comprehension on how to properly use the system. However, Polestar's support team is working diligently in rectifying whatever glitches the system may have and to also provide guidance/training to the operators on how to properly use the system. Once the e-log system is functioning 100%, we will fully transition to the sole reliability of the system.

Our Fisheries Monitoring Centre which was created in January 2014, is still functioning as per normal. We have fisheries officers who are dedicated in conducting 24 hours monitoring via our VMS within this centre. Currently, it is a general requirement that all fishing vessels or fishing related vessels must obtain and install the unit provided by Polestar Global. Therefore, all vessels 24 meters and more in length must meet this requirement. When a unit is purchased

from our service provider, it is then shipped directly to the vessel and is installed. After testing is conducted to ensure that the unit is successfully reporting on our system, the administration will authorize the vessel to proceed with its fishing expedition under Belize. Currently, all data that is retrieved from the unit meets the standards and requirement set forth by IATTC. With regard to Resolution C-03-04, all Belize fishing vessels under IATTC are long liners and as such does not need to meet the requirements stipulated within this resolution. With regard to Resolution C-03-05, relevant data have been retrieve from the fishing log book which the master utilizes on a daily basis. While we are finalizing the testing phase of our E-log program feature on our VMS to retrieve real time catch data, we rely heavily on the documented fishing logbooks and unloading reports to provide catch data to IATTC.